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SEDUL 06110

E.O. 12065: GDS 05/14/86 (CLARK, WILLIAM) OR-P  
TAGS: PINS KS  
SUBJECT: STUDENT DISORDERS IN SEOUL AND PROVINCES

DEPARTMENT OF STATE 9003d08 IS/FPC/CDR 102B Date. 4/13/93

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2. SEPTER REPORTED LARGE-SCALE OFF-CAMPUS STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS PLANNED FOR MAY 14. AS OF 1550 ON THE 14TH, AT LEAST FOUR LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS ARE REPORTED IN SEOUL;

- 1) ABOUT 5,000 PLUS SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY (SNU) STUDENTS, POSSIBLY JOINED BY SOME FROM OTHER SCHOOLS, ARE DEMONSTRATING AT POINTS BETWEEN SNU AND YONGDUNGPO, AND MOVING SLOWLY IN THE DIRECTION OF DOWNTOWN.
- 2) A THOUSAND-PLUS STUDENTS FROM YONSEI, SOGANG, AND PERHAPS EHWA UNIVERSITIES ARE DEMONSTRATING AT INDEPENDENCE ARCH IN SEDDAEMUN.
- 3) TWO TO THREE THOUSAND STUDENTS FROM KORYO AND

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- POSSIBLY OTHER EAST-SIDE UNIVERSITIES ARE DEMON-  
- STRATING AT AND AROUND THE MAJOR EAST SIDE  
- RAILROAD TERMINAL AT CHONGNYANGNI.
- 4) OVER A THOUSAND STUDENTS FROM EAST SIDE SCHOOLS  
- ARE SITTING IN AND DEMONSTRATING IN THE DEPARTMENT-  
- STORE DISTRICT DOWNTOWN. EYEWITNESSES REPORT THIS  
- SITE CALM. WITHOUT CLASHES.

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3. OTHER OFF-CAMPUS ACTIVITY, MOSTLY NONVIOLENT DEMONSTRATIONS, ARE REPORTED FROM KWANGJU, IRI, TAEGU, MOKPO, AND PUSAN. CONSIDERABLE ON CAMPUS ACTIVITY, INCLUDING SOME ROCK-THROWING/TEAR GAS INCIDENTS, ARE REPORTED IN SEOUL (YONSEI, KORYO) AND TAEGU.

4. POLICE GENERALLY ARE TRYING TO KEEP THOSE ON-CAMPUS FROM LEAVING, AND ARE LIMITING OFF-CAMPUS GROUPS' MOVEMENTS BUT NOT OTHERWISE INTERFERING WITH THEM. IN KWANGJU, POLICE HAVE SURROUNDED ABOUT 2,000 DEMONSTRATING STUDENTS IN THE MAIN SQUARE AND ARE ALLOWING OTHER STUDENTS TO JOIN THE GROUP AND DEMONSTRATE BUT ARE NOT ALLOWING ANYONE TO LEAVE. NO CLASHES REPORTED. REPORTED ARRESTS IN SEOUL MAY 14TH ARE "ABOUT 50." MOST OF THOSE ARRESTED MAY 13 (SEPT) WERE QUICKLY RELEASED.

5. EDUCATION MINISTER AND PRIME MINISTER HAVE MET WITH PRESIDENTS OF SNU, KORYO, AND YONSEI. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN DID NOT DISCLOSE DETAILS, BUT TOLD REPORTERS THAT GOVERNMENT DID NOT PLAN TO SEIZE OR CLOSE UNIVERSITIES. MINISTER KIM LATER URGED STUDENTS TO BEHAVE WITH MODERATION AND WARNED THAT STREET DEMONSTRATIONS "WOULD BE DEALT WITH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAWS."

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6. STUDENTS ARE REPORTEDLY CHANTING SLOGANS CALLING FOR LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW, "IMMEDIATE" END TO INTERIM GOVERNMENT, FREEDOM FOR POLITICAL PRISONERS, GUARANTEEING THREE RIGHTS OF LABOR, ETC. THEIR SENSE OF FRUSTRATION, HOWEVER, APPEARS TO HAVE OUTRUN THEIR SENSE OF TACTICS, AND THERE IS NO EVIDENT OVERALL STRATEGY TYING THEIR ACTIVITY TO THEIR GOALS. PARTICULARLY BEMUSING IS ESCALATION OF CIVIL DISORDER TO ENCOURAGE LIFTING OF MARTIAL LAW. AUTHORITIES' EXCEPTIONAL RESTRAINT SUGGESTS THEY EXPECT COOLER HEADS MAY SURFACE ONCE INITIAL BURST OF SPLEEN HAS BEEN VENTED.

7. DESPITE THE RAIN AND TEAR GAS, THE EMBASSY AND DOWNTOWN AREAS ARE FILLED WITH DEMONSTRATORS. GLEYSTEN

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